(a) the number of airconditioner companies in the country and the income tax outstanding against them and the date from which it is outstanding and the details of the scheme formulated by the Government to recover the outstanding income tax;

(b) whether the income tax is still outstanding against Shiva Air Conditioner Company in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details in regard to the recovery of income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Information of outstanding income-tax trade-wise or according to items of manufacture is not separately maintained. Further, very few companies wholly and exclusively manufacture air-conditioners. Therefore, information in this regard would require references to field offices spread all over the country. Collection and compilation of such information would be time-consuming and efforts and labour involved in the matter may not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved. However, if the Hon'ble Member desires to have the information about any particular company, the same can be collected and furnished.

(b) and (c) M/s. Shiva Airconditioning Company located at 2811, A-Block, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi is a proprietary concern engaged in hiring, repairing and manufacturing of air-conditioners. According to information collected, there is outstanding income-tax of Rs.1207/- raised in January, 1997 in this case.

Challan has been sent by the Assessing Officer towards realisation of the above demand.

[English]

Dispute Settlement Forum of WTO

2775. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Commission is likely to take up a decision on hauling India to the dispute settlement forum of the World Trade Organisation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The European Communities have sought formal consultations with India, inter-alia, under Article XXII of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and the Understanding on Rules and procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) alleging that continued maintenance of quantitative restrictions on imports by India is inconsistent with India's obligations under the World Trade Organisation. India has accepted the request for consultations.

Investment in North-Eastern Region

2776. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total private investment made since the adoption of new economic policy in the seven North-Eastern States in the sectors of power, coal mining, oil and gas exploration/tapping, civil aviation, inland water-ways, and roads;

(b) the particulars of the projects in which the said private investment has been made; and

(c) the number of private investors who have availed of the special incentives given for investment in the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Since the adoption of new economic policy till June, 1997, 16 Letters of Intent involving investment of Rs. 2431 Crores were granted and 87 Industrial Entrepreneurs Memoranda with a proposed investment of Rs. 4017 Crores were filed for setting up of industries in the seven North Eastern States. However, details regarding private investment made in power, coal mining, oil and gas exploration/tapping, civil aviation, inland water-ways and roads or special incentives availed by private investors are not centrally maintained.

Coal Linkage

2777. SHRI B.K. GADHVI:

SHRI SHANTI LAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters of quarterly allocation of coal linkage for power generation;

(b) the quarterly demand of coal by Gujarat Electricity Board during the last three years and the actual allocation made;

(c) whether the supply of coal has been as per the demand;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the future planning for allocation and supply of adequate coal linkage to GEB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) Linkages to power houses in the country including the power houses of Gujarat Electricity Board (GEB) are sanctioned by the Standing Linkage Committee (short term) on quarterly basis taking into account the long term projections, the views of Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority, availability of coal, payment and transport constraints and unloading performance of the Power Station etc.

Since outstanding dues from GEB had mounted and the GEB had not made arrangements to clear even the

undisputed dues, linkages to GEB Power Stations had at time been restricted to the extent of payments.

The linkages sanctioned by SLC vis-a-vis actual supplies of coal to GEB Power houses during the last three years are as under:

(In'000 tonnes)

Year	Linkages	Actual despatches
1994-95	13965	11343
1995-96	13425	12135
1996-97	12240	12148 (Provisional)

(e) The future coal requirements of GEB will be met adequately subject to payment record and improving unloading performance by the power houses.

National Bank for Powerloom Sector

2778. SHRI SHANTI LAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council has suggested for setting up of a National Bank for powerloom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Textiles has received proposal for setting up of a National Powerloom Development Bank for Powerloom Sector from the Powerloom Development and Export Promotion Council.

(b) and (c) The working Capital and other loan requirements of the Powerloom Sector can be met by NABARD and SIDBI and hence the proposal for setting up a separate National Bank for powerloom sector is not being considered.

[Translation]

I.T.A. Tribunals

2779. DR. ARVIND SHARMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Government of Haryana, Income-tax payers people's representation, lawyers and Chairman of Tax-bar Associations for setting up of an Appellate Tribunal at Sonepat, Rohtak or Hissar districts of the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard and the time by which the said tribunal is likely to be set up at any one of the above mentioned places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir. A demand has been made for setting up of a Bench of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal at Hissar.

(b) It has not been found possible to accede to this demand due to insufficiency of work. However, Government has recently approved the setting up of a second Bench of the Tribunal at Chandigarh.

National Renewal Fund

2780. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of providing assistance from the National Renewal Fund to closed/sick Public Sector Undertakings of the State Governments is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so the details thereof and the time by which the State Governments are likely to be informed about the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The National Renewal Fund (NRF) has been set up by Government in February, 1992 to provide a social safety net for workers affected by technology upgradation, modernisation and industrial restructuring of Indian Industry. Proposals for Financial assistance from the National Renewal Fund have been received from some State Governments.

However, assistance from NRF is presently restricted only to Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings and to the schemes for counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to rationalised workers.

Brito Finance and Trading Company

2781. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many finance companies in Delhi have been misleading the people through advertisement and take 10 per cent of the loan amount from the loan applicants and thousands of rupees are collected in advance in the name of file charges but neither the loan is given nor the advance taken is repaid and the applicant has to face a lot of difficulties to withdraw their amount;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard through some Members of Parliament against Brito Finance and Trading Co. (Regd.) B-255, phase-I, Naraina Industrial Area, New Delhi-20;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) While there have been reports of irregularities committed by some non-banking financial companies in different parts of the country, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have not come across any case of taking 10 per cent of loan as commission and taking